Employment Generation

259. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that economic reforms have not helped employment generation in the country;

(b) what was the figure of employment generation during the 1980's and what it has been during the last ten years;

(c) whether Government have gone into the causes of this fall; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The level, quality and growth of wages, incomes and employment in the economy is significantly affected by the overall growth in the GDP. Economic reforms are aimed at accelerating the GDP growth, particularly in sectors which are important for employment generation. At the current rate of expansion in the countrys' labour force estimated at 8.7 million annually, annual GDP growth of less than 8 per cent is unlikely to bring about a significant improvement in the overall employment situation.

(b) As per the latest estimates on employment based on the Survey on Employment and Unemployment situation in India conducted as part of the 55th Round of the National Sample Survey Organisation, the estimated number of persons employed alongwith the growth rate of employment per annum is as under:

Employed persons (million)			Annual growth rate (%)	
1983	1993-94	1999-2000	1983-94	1994-2000
302.75	374.34	397.00	2.04	0.98

(c) and (d) One of the main reasons for deceleration in the growth of employment is ascribed to a sharp deceleration in the growth of labour force from 2.05 per cent per annum in the period 1983 to 1993-94 to only 1.03 per cent during the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000. Whereas the growth in the private organised sector employment was 1.87 per cent in 1993-94 to 1999-2000, the organised public sector

growth of employment was negligible during this period. Because of lower productivity, excess manpower and constraint of resources, organised public sector is unable to generate higher employment growth.

Smuggling of Fake Currency Notes

260. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'high quality' fake Rs. 500/-notes worth Rs. 30 lakh were seized from a suspected aide of Dawood Ibrahim in the month of May, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that Capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport currently is being used for smuggling of fake currency notes into the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some senior Customs officials posted at IGI Airport are deeply involved in such smuggling activities; and

(d) what action Government have taken to prevent smuggling of fake currency notes into the country and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) In a joint operation, Rajasthan and Delhi Police seized new counterfeit Indian Currency notes having a face value of Rs. 30 lakhs, on 14.5.2001 in Delhi.

(b) Government has not come across any incidence where that Capital's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has been used for smuggling of fake currency notes into the country.

(c) No incidence of involvement of customs officials posted at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in such smuggling activities has come to the notice of the Government.

(d) The field formations of the Customs department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) are vigilant and alert to prevent smuggling of contraband goods, including smuggling of fake currency notes, which has resulted in detection of several cases.